WE CLAIM

1. A linkage system which links a first computer of a first medical institution with a second computer of a second medical institution through a network,

5   wherein the first computer of the first medical institution comprising:

a communication terminal for sending out an e-mail to the network and receiving an e-mail from the network;

an inquiry file creating means for creating an inquiry basic
10   data file having a patient information and inquiry contents;

an inquiry mail creating means for creating an e-mail having the inquiry basic data file as an attachment file thereto and addressing to the second computer;

a reply contents output means for outputting reply contents
15   being included in an attachment file of a received e-mail in a predetermined mode; and

wherein the second computer of the second medical institution comprising:

a communication terminal for sending out an e-mail to the
20   network and receiving an e-mail from the network;

an inquiry contents output means for outputting inquiry contents being included in an attachment file of a received e-mail in a predetermined mode;

a reply file creating means for creating a reply basic data
25   file having an answer to the outputted inquiry contents; and

a reply mail creating means for creating an e-mail having the reply basic data file as an attachment file thereto and addressing to the first computer.

30 2. A linkage system according to claim 1,

wherein the inquiry file creating means further creating a medical data file based on a medical data of the patient specified by the patient information, and

wherein the inquiry mail creating means creating the e-
35   mail further having the medical data file as an attachment file thereto.

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3.   A linkage system according to claim 2,

wherein the second computer further comprising a data extracting means for extracting medical data from the medical data file being attached to the received e-mail,

and wherein the reply file creating means further creating a reply attached data file based on the extracted medical data,

and wherein the reply mail creating means creating the e-mail further having the reply attached data file as the attachment file thereto.

4.   A linkage system according to claim 3,

wherein the second computer further comprising an data editing means for editing the extracted medical data,

and wherein the reply file creating means creating the reply attached data file based on the edited medical data.

5.   A linkage system according to claim 1, wherein the first computer further comprising:

a patient data item selecting means for designating each patient data item to be given to the inquiry file creating means as the patient information; and

a patient data item revising means for revising the contents of the designated patient data item.

6.   A computer of a medical institution in a linkage system which links computers to each other through a network, the computer of the medical institution comprising:

a communication terminal for sending out an e-mail to the network and receiving an e-mail from the network;

an inquiry file creating means for creating an inquiry basic data file having a patient information and inquiry contents and a medical data file based on a medical data of the patient specified by the patient information; and

an inquiry mail creating means for creating an e-mail having the inquiry basic data file and the medical data file as attachment

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files thereto and addressing to a predetermined computer of another medical institution in the linkage system.

7.   A computer of a medical institution according to claim 6, wherein the computer of the medical institution further comprising:

a patient data item selecting means for designating each patient data item to be given to the inquiry file creating means as the patient information; and

a patient data item revising means for revising the contents of the designated patient data item.

8.   A computer program which allows a computer in a linkage system of computers of medical institutions being linked to each other through a network to function as:

an inquiry file creating means for creating an inquiry basic data file having a patient information and inquiry contents and a medical data file based on a medical data of the patient specified by the patient information; and

an inquiry mail creating means for creating an e-mail having the inquiry basic data file and the medical data file as attachment files thereto and addressing to a predetermined computer of another medical institution in the linkage system.

9.   A computer of a medical institution in a linkage system which links computers to each other through a network, the computer of the medical institution comprising:

a communication terminal for sending out an e-mail to the network and receiving an e-mail from the network;

an inquiry contents output means for outputting inquiry contents being included in an attachment file of a received e-mail in a predetermined mode;

a reply file creating means for creating a reply basic data file having an answer to the outputted inquiry contents; and

a reply mail creating means for creating an e-mail having the reply basic data file as an attachment file thereto and

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addressing to a predetermined computer of another medical institution in the linkage system.

10.   A computer of a medical institution according to claim 9, wherein the computer further comprising a data extracting means for extracting medical data from the medical data file being attached to the received e-mail,

and wherein the reply file creating means further creating a reply attached data file based on the extracted medical data,

and wherein the reply mail creating means creating the e-mail further having the reply attached data file as the attachment file thereto.

11.   A computer of a medical institution according to claim 10, wherein the computer further comprising an data editing means for editing the extracted medical data,

and wherein the reply file creating means creating the reply attached data file based on the edited medical data.

12.   A computer program which allows a computer in a linkage system of computers of medical institutions being linked to each other through a network to function as:

an inquiry contents output means for outputting inquiry contents being included in an attachment file of a received e-mail in a predetermined mode;

a reply file creating means for creating a reply basic data file having an answer to the outputted inquiry contents; and

a reply mail creating means for creating an e-mail having the reply basic data file as an attachment file thereto and addressing to a predetermined computer of another medical institution in the linkage system.

13.   A linkage system which links a first computer of a first medical institution with a second computer of a second medical institution through a network,

wherein the first computer of the first medical institution

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comprising:

a communication terminal for sending out an e-mail to the network and receiving an e-mail from the network;

an inquiry mail creating means for creating an e-mail having the inquiry basic data file of a patient information and inquiry contents as an attachment file thereto and addressing to the second computer;

a mail control data setting means for setting an unique control data to the created inquiry e-mail;

a mail control means for controlling e-mails in pairs, the e-mails being set corresponding control data respectively; and

wherein the second computer of the second medical institution comprising:

a communication terminal for sending out an e-mail to the network and receiving an e-mail from the network;

a reply mail creating means for creating an e-mail having the reply basic data file of an answer to the inquiry contents as an attachment file thereto and addressing to the first computer;

a mail control data setting means for setting a control data being created correspondingly by the control data of the inquiry e-mail to the created reply e-mail; and

a mail control means for controlling e-mails in pairs, the e-mails being set corresponding control data respectively.

14.   A linkage system according to claim 13, wherein the inquiry e-mail created by the inquiry mail creating means further having a medical data file as an attachment file thereto.

15.   A method of linking a first computer of a first medical institution with a second computer of a second medical institution through a network,

wherein the first computer of the first medical institution executing procedures comprising the steps of:

creating an inquiry basic data file having a patient information and inquiry contents;

creating an e-mail having the inquiry basic data file as

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an attachment file thereto;

        sending out the created e-mail to the network addressing to the second computer; and

        wherein the second computer of the second medical institution executing procedures comprising the steps of:

        outputting inquiry contents being included in an attachment file of a received e-mail in a predetermined mode;

        creating a reply basic data file having an answer to the outputted inquiry contents;

        creating an e-mail having the reply basic data file as an attachment file thereto; and

        sending out the created e-mail to the network addressing to the first computer.